Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of committing a transaction to a database, the method comprising:

initiating a database transaction;

intercepting transaction data from the database transaction to create ~~creating~~ an electronic record ~~that includes transaction data from the database transaction~~ prior to committing the associated database transaction to the database;

executing a rule associated with the electronic record to determine whether an electronic signature is required to connote review of the electronic record in order to commit the database transaction to the database;

requesting the electronic signature prior to committing the database transaction to the database based on a determination that an electronic signature is required; and

committing the database transaction associated with the electronic record to the database in response to receiving the electronic signature.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic record comprises data generated from multiple tables of the database.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic record is stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users of the database.

4. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic record is stored as data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

5. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 4 wherein the data comprises a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a database table.

6. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 5 wherein XML fields of the data are filled with the transaction data based on a predefined mapping of a data type definition to multiple data sources.

7. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 1 further displaying at least some of the transaction data in the electronic record on a computer display based on the determination that an electronic signature is required.

8. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 7 wherein the transaction data in the electronic record is displayed according to a predefined layout set forth in an XSL style sheet associated with data comprising a copy of the electronic record as displayed, wherein the data is stored within a column of a database table.

9. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 1 further comprising obtaining and verifying the electronic signature.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the rule requires a plurality of different electronic signatures and wherein, if execution of the rule results in a determination that a plurality of electronic signatures are required, requesting the plurality of electronic signatures prior to committing the data to the database.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein, if the electronic signature is rejected or otherwise cannot be obtained, the database transaction is rolled-back and not committed to the database.

12. (Currently amended) A computer system that manages electronic records stored in a database, the computer system comprising:

a processor;

a database; and

a computer-readable memory coupled to the processor, the computer-readable memory configured to store a computer program;

wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:

(i) initiate a database transaction;

(ii) intercept transaction data from the database transaction to create an electronic record ~~that includes transaction data from the database transaction~~ prior to committing the associated database transaction to the database;

(iii) execute a rule associated with the electronic record to determine whether an electronic signature is required to connote review of the electronic record in order to commit the database transaction to the database; and

(iv) -request the electronic signature prior to committing the database transaction to the database based on a determination that an electronic signature is required; and

(v) commit the database transaction associated with the electronic record to the database in response to receiving the electronic signature.

13. (Original) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the electronic record comprises data generated from multiple tables of the database.

14. (Original) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the electronic record is stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users of the system.

15. (Previously submitted) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the electronic record comprises data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

16. (Previously submitted) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the data comprises a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a table stored in the database.

17. (Original) The computer system of claim 16 wherein fields of the electronic record are filled with the transaction data based on a predefined mapping of a data type definition to multiple data sources.

18. (Previously submitted) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the processor is further operative with the computer program to obtain and verify the electronic signature.

19. (Currently amended) A computer program product having a computer-readable storage medium storing instructions for a computer system having a processor operative with the instructions for managing electronic records stored in a database, the computer program product comprising:

code for initiating a database transaction;

code for intercepting transaction data from the database transaction to create ~~creating~~ an electronic record ~~that includes transaction data from the database transaction~~ prior to committing the associated database transaction to the database;

code for executing a rule associated with the record to determine whether an electronic signature is required to connote review of the electronic record in order to commit the database transaction to the database; and

code for requesting the electronic signature prior to committing the database transaction to the database based on a determination that that an electronic signature is required; and

code for committing the database transaction associated with the electronic record to the database in response to receiving the electronic signature.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the code for creating an electronic record further comprises code for creating electronic records in response to the occurrence of a predefined event.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 19 wherein the electronic record is stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users of the system.

22. (Previously submitted) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the electronic record comprises data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

23. (Previously submitted) The computer program product of claim 22 wherein the data comprises a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a table stored in the database.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein fields of the electronic record are filled with the transaction data based on a predefined mapping of a DTD to multiple data sources.

25. (Previously submitted) The computer program product of claim 19 further comprising code for obtaining and verifying the electronic signature.

26. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of committing a transaction to a database, the method comprising:

intercepting transaction data from a database transaction to create ~~creating~~ an electronic record ~~including transaction data associated with the transaction~~ prior to committing the associated database transaction to the database in response to the occurrence of a predetermined event, wherein the electronic record comprises the transaction data stored as a well-formed XML document in a character large-object (CLOB) format of a column of a database table;

storing the electronic record in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or deleted by users of the system;

executing a rule associated with the electronic record to determine whether an electronic signature is required to connote review of the electronic record in order to commit the database transaction to the database;

if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required, (i) displaying the transaction data in the electronic record according to a predefined layout set forth in an XSL style sheet associated with the electronic record and storing a copy of the transaction data as displayed in a character large-object (CLOB) format of a second column of the database table and (ii) requesting, obtaining and verifying the electronic signature prior to committing the transaction into a database; and

committing the transaction to the database in response to verifying the electronic signature.